



Richard Earl STRICKLAND

August 16, 1930 - February 9, 2020

Richard Earl Strickland, 89, of Wentzville, MO., died Sunday, February 09, 2020 at his residence. He was born on August 16, 1930 in Greenville, MO. The son of the late Richard and Lillian Strickland.

Richard Earl Strickland was born on August 16, 1930 to the late Richard and Lillian (Wood) Strickland in Greenville, Missouri, the third of four children. His family owned and operated a general store in town. He graduated from Poplar Bluff High School in 1948 and he maintained those friendships for the rest of his life. Richard was an expert storyteller and he would often reminisce about his wonderful childhood. He inherited his lifelong love of the St. Louis Cardinals from his father.

Shortly after moving to Saint Louis, MO, Richard met Norma Hightower at a Halloween square dance in 1955. They married on May 9, 1956 and quickly started their family of six. While Richard and Norma raised their children, they often visited National Parks and their hometowns. This love of travel continued as Richard retired and they visited Hawaii, Florida, the Caribbean, and many other exotic places.

Richard was a fervent believer in Jesus Christ. He joined Parker Road Baptist Church with Norma, and it became a second family to him for many years. While there, he was actively involved in Operation Christmas Child. He recently began attending First Baptist Church of Wentzville in 2019.

In his later years, Richard was an avid Spades and Bridge player and he was always out to win the game. He enjoyed visiting with family, watching sports and old Westerns, reading his bible, and discussing politics.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife Norma Jean, of 62 years; His sons Wallace "Lee" and James Strickland; and granddaughter Jennifer Strickland.

His legacy lives on through his 4 children, Larry Strickland, Ken (Michelle) Strickland, Sandra (Michael) McMahan, and Laura (Vincent) Galati; 7 grandchildren, Joseph Strickland, Daniel Strickland, the late Jennifer Strickland, Megan (Austin) Nikolaisen, Justin Mancillas, Michael McMahan, and Miranda McMahan; 4 great-grandchildren Milliana Haynes, Reagan Haynes, Jordyn Nikolaisen, and Kamryn Nikolaisen. He is survived by his sister Mary Lou Owens and many other loving family members and

friends.

In Memory

It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you did not go alone.

A part of us went with you,
the day God took you home.

If tears could build a stairway,
and heartaches make a lane,
we'd walk our way to heaven,
and bring you back again.

In life we loved you dearly,
in death we love you still,
in our hearts you hold a place
no one could ever fill.

There will be a memorial visitation Friday, February 14, 2020 from 10:30 AM to 11:15 AM with a memorial mass at 11:15 AM and a luncheon to follow at First Baptist Church of Wentzville, 653 Luetkenhaus Blvd, Wentzville, MO 63385.

Those wishing to honor Richard's memory may make memorial donations in his honor to Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child by visiting <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and selecting donate.

Events

FEB **Memorial Gathering** 10:30AM - 11:15AM

14

First Baptist Church of Wentzville

653 Luetkenhaus Blvd, Wentzville, MO, US, 63385

FEB **Memorial Mass** 11:15AM

14

First Baptist Church of Wentzville

653 Luetkenhaus Blvd, Wentzville, MO, US, 63385

Comments



“ Dear Larry, Ken, Sandra, and Laura,

So sorry to learn that Uncle Richard passed away and didn't have to opportunity to speak with him after Aunt Norma passed away. I tried to reach out to your father; but, was unable to connect with him. Aunt Norma was the last Hightower sibling to pass.

Sorry that we were unable to be closer growing up. Family connections are important. I remember fondly the times we did have family visits. I always enjoyed reading Aunt Norma's letters to my dad and talking with your parents. They were kind, good people.

At the moment I'm living in Asia. I may join my mother, Aunt Betty, on a trip to Branson, MO next fall - maybe seeing Joy Lee and Uncle Kenneth. Certainly, I won't be traveling any time soon.

I can be found on Facebook. I'd love to hear from you.

Take care and stay well.

Tracy Hightower

Tracy Hightower - March 21 at 03:19 AM



“ Our Love, Sympathy and Prayers for Rich and Norma's family. You are missed but know you are with Our Lord in Heaven and we will see you again! Mike & Rosemary Shuttleworth- Parker Road Baptist Church

Rosemary Shuttleworth - February 19 at 01:27 PM



“ Dad was largely a product of the town he grew up in and his relationship with Jesus Christ. Thanks for everything, we miss you for awhile. Love, Ken

Ken Strickland - February 19 at 08:29 AM